

May 2, 2011

City of Hayward
City Hall Building
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541-5007

To the Honorable Mayor Sweeny and Council Members:

This letter is to address a traffic safety concern that can be easily fixed by putting things back the way they had been for 40 years.

Following the recently completed B Street Tree Rehabilitation Project, additional curb parking along B Street was added which shortened the distance motorists have to get into the "right turn only" lane when approaching Grand Street. This change makes it more dangerous for pedestrians crossing the highly traveled intersection of B and Grand streets. Approximately four car lengths of the turn lane which had restricted parking was replaced by new curbside parking.

Prior to that street repair, the red-marked curb extended from 553 B Street to the corner of Grand, just allowing time for motorists traveling at moderate speeds to get over, slow down and make that turn safely. The loss of the longer lane requires motorists to merge more abruptly and often turn with less control of their vehicle. It also poses a threat to residents who park in the formerly restricted area because motorists seeking to make the right turn will start to get over as quickly as possible to do so and increase the chances of swiping cars parked along the once-restricted curb.

The traffic engineers who had previously added four more car lengths of distance for the turn had obviously taken this situation into account. We respectfully request that you go back to their parking restrictions so our neighborhood will be safer.

We would also note that the Eden Senior Housing Project being planned for this very corner – B and Grand streets -- will lead to more elderly people crossing that busy intersection. This situation as it is now, with less time for motorists to get into their right lane before turning, will pose even a greater threat to the well being of our senior residents.

We would appreciate a written response indicating what action will be taken to resolve this request.

Sincerely,

Shiu F.W. Tom & Lambert Tom
Linda Christo
Lena Bovero
Lindy Turnquist
[REDACTED]

Raymond Vasquez
Ismael Vasquez
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